

USE THIS



Photo by J. Panasiewicz

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

PREVENT THIS



Photo by M. Morgan

*With your help, cutting down or
eliminating plastic-use in daily
life will help the environment.
Say no to single-use plastics!*

Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA)
c/o Erie County Department of Environment and Planning
95 Franklin Street, Room 1077
Buffalo, New York 14202



Photo by M. Morgan

**SAY NO TO
SINGLE-USE
PLASTICS**

Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance

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The Problem

It is estimated that 10,000 metric tons of plastic pollution enter the Great Lakes each year. Plastics pose a serious threat to fish, birds, and other aquatic life living in the ecosystem who may eat the plastic or become entangled in it.



Photo by G. Carrel

Chemicals already found in the water may cling to plastic pieces and enter the food web through ingestion.



Photo by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

Facts

- Plastic constitutes approximately 80% of all trash on the Great Lakes shorelines.
- One million sea birds and marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in the water.
- Single-use bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but take over 500 years to degrade in the environment.
- The average human throws away about 185 pounds of plastic per year.
- Plastic in water breaks down into such small fragments that pieces from a one liter bottle could end up on every mile of beach throughout the world.
- Virtually every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some form on Earth.

How You Can Help



Photo by J. Panasiewicz

- Use cloth, mesh, or other reusable bags.
- Drink beverages from reusable bottles.
- Use washable cutlery instead of plastic utensils.
- Buy products that do not use extra packaging.
- Say “no” to straws and plastic lids at restaurants.
- Pick up litter.
- Recycle!

Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance

Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties working together to protect our water resources.

www.erie.gov/LEWPA

